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REMARKS

This preliminary amendment is being made to bring the claims into conformity with the practice in this country. An action on the merits is most courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS SHOWING CHANGES MADE

1. (Amended) An [drive unit for an] electric motor-operated vehicle comprised of a frame, a wheel journaled by said frame, an electric motor carried by said frame and having an output shaft, and a transmission for selectively driving said wheel from said electric motor output shaft or permitting said wheel to free wheel relative to said output shaft, said transmission comprising [provided with] a planetary gear mechanism having[;] a sun gear element [rotating together with a motor output shaft], at least one planetary gear element meshing [the]with said sun gear element, [and] a ring gear element meshing with said [the] planetary gear element [;] and [constituted that an arm] a carrier plate element supporting [the]said planetary gear element for [is rotated with the] rotation, said output shaft driving one of said planetary gear mechanism elements, another of said planetary gear mechanism elements being in driving relation with said wheel and a coupling element for selectively retaining still another of said planetary gear mechanism elements against rotation or permitting rotation thereof for selectively driving said wheel from said output shaft of [the] said motor at a specified speed reduction ratio or permitting freewheeling of said wheel relative to said output shaft[, characterized in that the ring gear is supported for rotation relative to a housing and that a switching mechanism for holding or releasing the relative rotation of the ring gear is provided].

2. (Amended) An [drive unit for an] electric motor-operated vehicle according to claim [1]5, [characterized in that] wherein the wheel is driven by a transmission [an] output shaft [is] connected to the carrier plate element coaxially with the axis of [the arm]said plate element, a wheel gear fixed to [the]an inside cylindrical surface of [a] said wheel [is] driven [with]by an output gear formed on the transmission output shaft, [and that] the motor output shaft and the transmission output shaft are disposed coaxially.

3. (Amended) An [drive unit for an] electric motor-operated vehicle according to claim 1, [characterized in that the]wherein there are a pair of wheels each driven by a respective electric motor and planetary gear mechanism [is] mounted on each of [right and left]said wheels, [there

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are provided] an operation mechanism mounted on the vehicle frame, and a transmitting system for transmitting the action of the operation mechanism simultaneously to both [switching mechanisms]coupling elements of said[the right and left] planetary gear mechanisms[, and the relative rotation of the ring gears is held or released by the right and left switching mechanisms according to the operation of the operation mechanism].

4. (New) An electric motor-operated vehicle according to claim 1, wherein the output shaft drives the sun gear element.

5. (New) An electric motor-operated vehicle according to claim 4, wherein coupling element couples the carrier plate element to the wheel.

6. (New) An electric motor-operated vehicle according to claim 4, wherein the ring gear element is the planetary gear mechanism element that is selectively held against rotation or permitted to rotate.